Stories in pictures

The Odd Goose

VIDYA AND RAJARAM SHARMA

A story photographed in 2020 at Hadinaru lake of Mysore district.

Photographs in this book may not show the actual size of birds.

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The Odd Goose

VIDYA AND RAJARAM SHARMA

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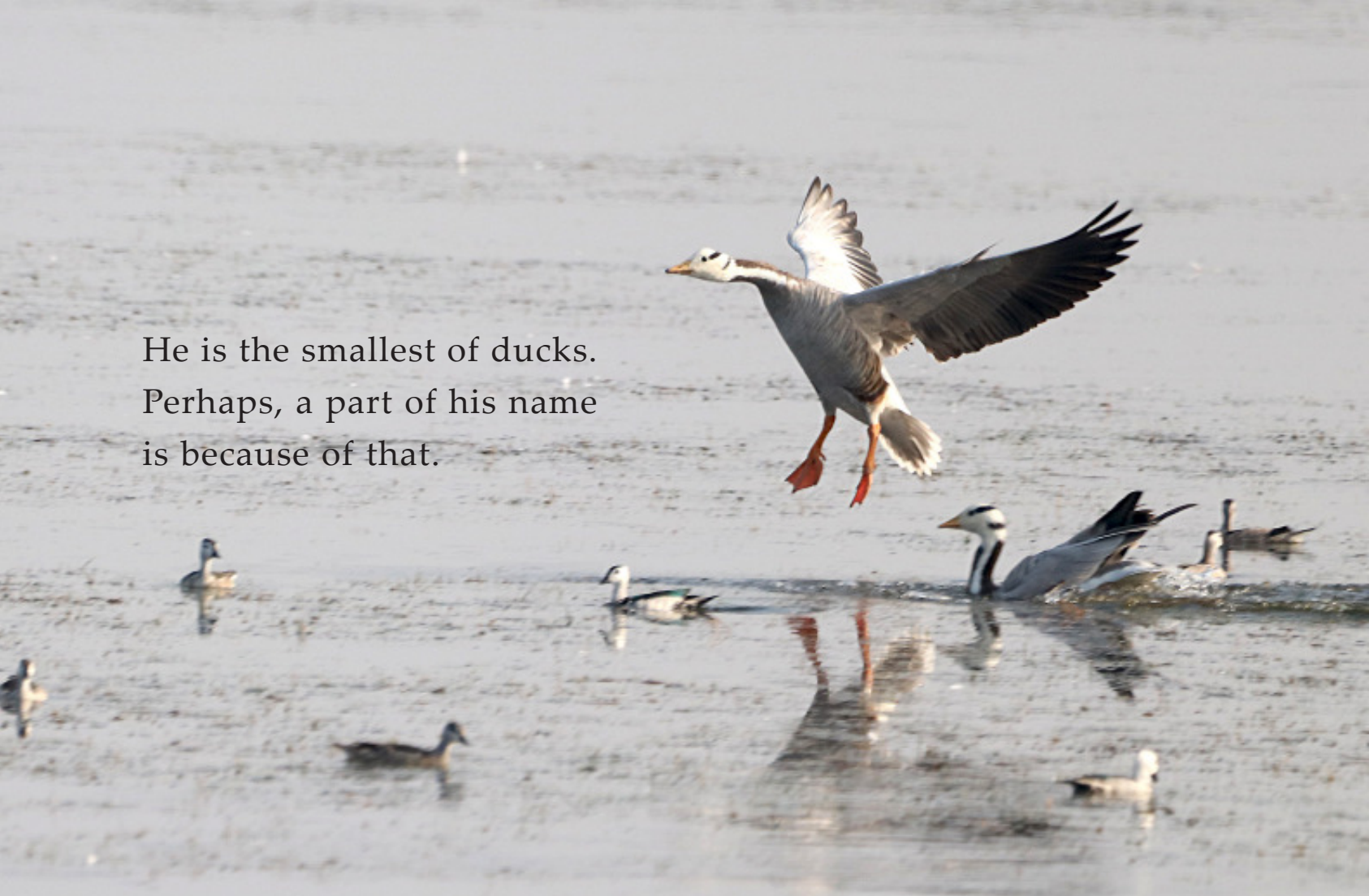
What's got into Mr. Cotton Pygmy Goose?

What?
Who is Mr. Cotton Pygmy Goose, you ask?

Well, he is not a pygmy.

And certainly not cottony,

but a duck, like all geese.



He is the smallest of ducks.
Perhaps, a part of his name
is because of that.

He has a round cotton white head,

a black cap, a black band
and blackish wings touched with the glossiest green.

But his lady has none of these.
No black cap, no black band
and definitely no glossy wings.

Though of course she shares his
shape and habits.

This you see, is Mr. Cotton Pygmy Goose.

I know ... I know ...
You want to know what's got into
Mr. Cotton Pygmy Goose!

Now, look at his tribe, with their goose-like bill,
skimming for juicy reed or floating plants,

grouping up to dazzle as they fly;
rapidly and in perfect formation,

or quacking and paddling along, peacefully ...

Oh! Do be patient, I am getting there; waiting to tell you
what's got into Mr. Cotton Pygmy Goose!

When his tribe is all peaceful and quiet, here he is, chasing his Lady.

Again and again.

Quacking at her loudly.

Again and again.

Making her patter.

Making her take to her wings.

After all that ...

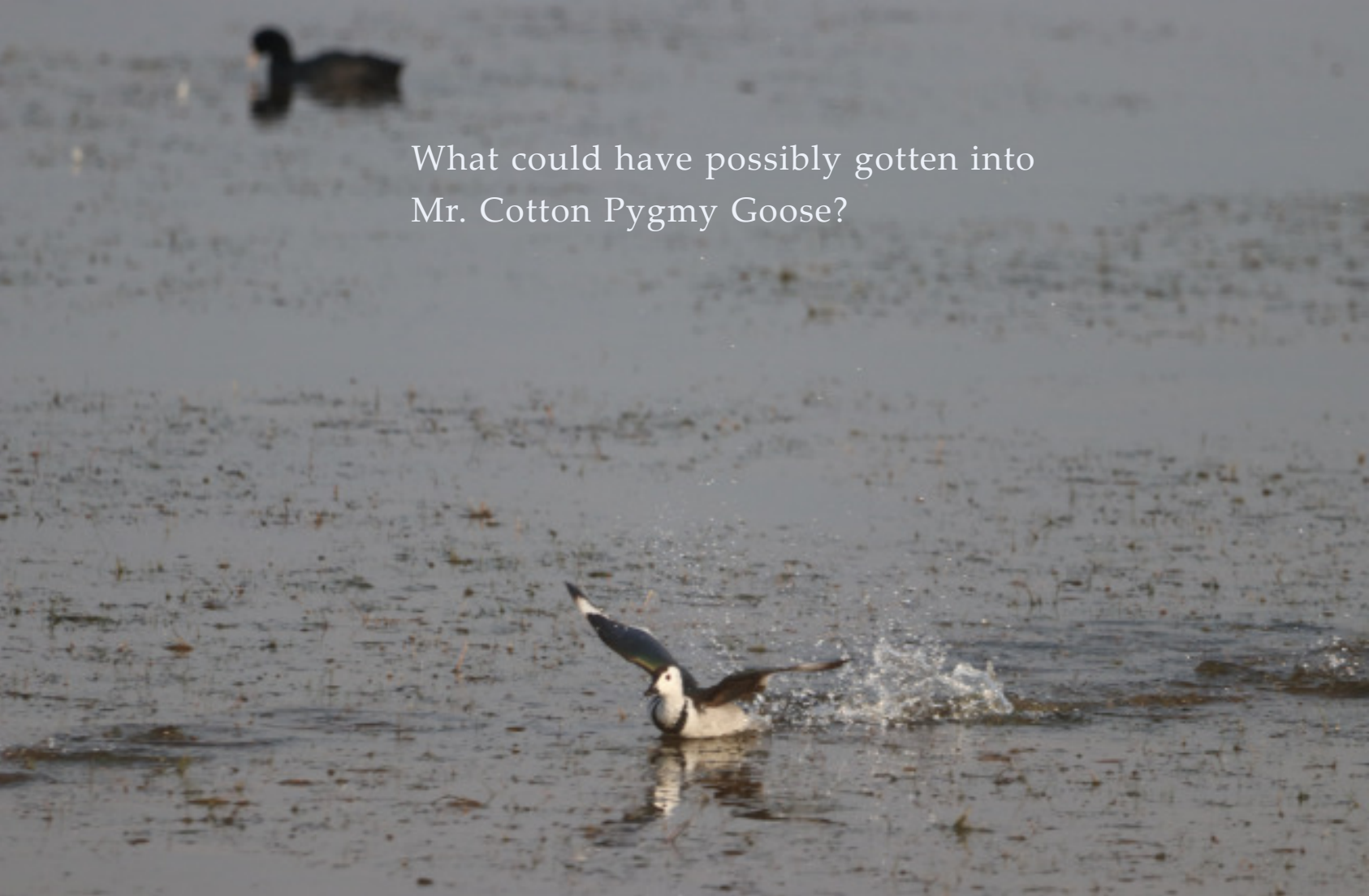
Driving her in circles,

round and round,

again and again.

In full view of others ...

... the Bar Headed Geese, Garganeys, Wigeons, Whistling Ducks, Coots and many more.


What could have possibly gotten into
Mr. Cotton Pygmy Goose?

How I wish I knew!
Perhaps you do!

By any chance do you know what's got into
Mr. Cotton Pygmy Goose?

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